



St John the Baptist Church  
St John's Road  
Harpenden  
AL5 1DJ

10 February 2019

Dear Friend

### **Electoral Roll – Full refresh and keeping in contact**

Every six years we need to carry out a full update of our Electoral Roll, and we would like to invite you to show your support for St John's Church by returning the attached form to join the Electoral Roll.

These are exciting times in the life of St John's. Over the past year we welcomed 1,100 people to the church to view an art installation as part of Cultivate, the Churches Together in Harpenden Arts festival; our curate, James Brown, has led events in and around Southdown, including at Grove School and singing Christmas carols in the Southdown pubs; and we continue to offer a variety of relaxed but reverent styles of worship in our Sunday services.

In May we will welcome Berkeley Zych to be our new vicar, and we have ambitious plans to replace our current parish hall with a new parish centre to serve the community of Southdown and parish of St John's.

So we would welcome your involvement and ask you to complete and return the enclosed form to apply to be enrolled on the Electoral Roll. Please complete and return your completed form either to the Parish Office or hand it to a Churchwarden marked for the attention of the *Electoral Roll Officer*, by Evensong on Sunday 17 March at the latest. Alternatively, you can complete, sign and scan the form and return it to [electoral.roll@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:electoral.roll@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk).

In addition, you will probably be aware of the recent GDPR legislation, which requires us to gain your separate consent to contact you about news, events, activities and services at St John's. So we have enclosed a second form that you can complete as needed and return to give us consent and to specify how you would like to be contacted. Please note that you are not required to complete this form in order to be on the Electoral Roll.

If you need more blank forms for other members of your household, friends or family, these are on the website ([stjohnsharpenden.org.uk/information/](http://stjohnsharpenden.org.uk/information/)).

We will be handling your Electoral Roll and contact details in accordance with the St John's Privacy Policy ([stjohnsharpenden.org.uk/information/privacy/](http://stjohnsharpenden.org.uk/information/privacy/)).

And finally, please do contact any of us if you have any questions.

Mary Jean Pritchard  
James Hillman  
Churchwardens

Steve Creasy  
Treasurer

Neil Middleton  
Electoral Roll Officer

## CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

### Application for enrolment on to the Electoral Roll of your parish church

#### ***What is the Electoral Roll?***

At its simplest, it is the list of names and addresses of every person who can vote at a parish's Annual Meeting (and any special or extra church meetings).

#### ***Who can be on it?***

Any lay person (i.e. not ordained clergy) who is baptised and over 16 years old, provided they live in the parish or have worshipped at the church regularly for at least six months. It is possible to be on the Roll of more than one church, but in that case a choice must be made over which one church you wish to vote in.

#### ***How can I be more involved in the church?***

For many people being on the Electoral Roll and having the right to vote at the annual meeting will be but a start of their involvement in the life of the church and support for the week to week work of the church in Living God's Love.

#### ***What is Living God's Love?***

It is the initiative in the Diocese of St Albans which helps us to focus our aims in the Christian life

- Going Deeper into God ..... through worship, prayer and study of our faith
- Transforming Communities .. through Christian service in, and beyond, our congregations
- Making New Disciples ..... through encouraging and building faith in the people of our communities.

#### ***How can I show support for the church?***

At its heart, support for the church is our response to God's love. It is spiritual (through prayer and regular participation in worship services), practical (through involvement in the week to week activities which support the life and ministry of the church), and financial (in contributing to the financial resources for the parish).

#### ***What about financial support?***

Such support is very much welcomed, although there is absolutely no church 'membership fee'! Biblical guidelines make clear that Christian giving to God's work through the church is a priority, and should be planned, regular and a suitable proportion of our income.

#### ***Where do church funds come from?***

There is no Government funding for the Church nationally, so the vast majority of funds for the day to day running of the church to support its ministry and mission is provided by the local congregations and friends of individual parish churches.

#### ***What is the best way of giving to the church?***

Regularity in giving is best achieved either through a standing order through your bank – or regular giving in a weekly envelope. For anyone who is a taxpayer, donations using Gift Aid provide an additional benefit to the church.

#### ***What is Gift Aid?***

It is a Government scheme to allow churches, as charities, to reclaim tax paid on donations. Donors need to have made a simple declaration, and that then allows a reclaim of tax to be made (£2.50 on every £10 gift at the current 20% basic rate of tax). Gift Aid costs the donor nothing!

Application for enrolment on to the Electoral Roll of your parish church

Parish HARPENDEN ST JOHN

Full Name and Title \_\_\_\_\_

Full address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

**I declare that:** (tick ONE box only of boxes 2a, 2b, 2c)

- 1  I am baptised and am aged 16 or over (or, become 16\* on \_\_\_\_\_)\* see note overleaf
- 2a  I am a member of the Church of England (or of a Church in communion with the Church of England) and am a resident in the parish
- 2b  I am a member of the Church of England (or a Church in communion with the Church of England) and, not being resident in the parish, I have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.
- 2c  I am a member in good standing of a Church (not in communion with the Church of England) which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and also declare myself to be a member of the Church of England and I have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

**I declare that the above answers are true and I apply for inclusion on the church electoral roll of the parish.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Notes for completing the application form

1. The only churches at present in communion with the Church of England are other Anglican Churches and certain foreign Churches.
2. Membership of the Electoral Roll is also open to members in good standing of a Church not in communion with the Church of England which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity where those members are also prepared to declare themselves to be members of the Church of England.
3. Every six years a new roll is prepared and those on the previous roll are informed so that they can re-apply. If you are not resident in the parish but were on the roll as an habitual worshipper and have been prevented by sickness or absence or other essential reason from worshipping for the past six months, you may write "would" before "have habitually attended" on the form and add "but was prevented from doing so because" and then state the reason.
4. If you have any problems over this form, please approach the clergy or lay people responsible for the parish, who will be pleased to help you.
5. In this form, "parish" means ecclesiastical parish. **To work out if you reside in the St John's ecclesiastical parish enter your post code at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>.**

\*Those who become 16 in the next twelve months may complete the form and become eligible to be entered on the roll on their sixteenth birthday.

**What do I do now?**

Please speak with your Vicar, Churchwardens, Electoral Roll Officer or Treasurer to follow up any questions you have. Please complete and return the form to the St John's Electoral Roll Officer – Neil Middleton – via a Churchwarden, c/o of the Parish Office, or as a scanned copy sent to [electoral.roll@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:electoral.roll@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk).

**Welcome to the new Roll, and thank you for your support for your church in this way.**

*Living God's Love*

[www.livinggodslove.org](http://www.livinggodslove.org)

## Consent to Contact you



Your privacy is important to us, and we want to communicate with church members in a way which has their consent, and which is in line with UK law on data protection. Please fill in the contact details you want us to use to communicate with you:

Title & Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this form you are confirming that you are consenting to the PCC of St John the Baptist, Harpenden holding and processing your personal data for the following purposes (please tick the boxes where you grant consent):-

I consent to the church contacting me by  post  phone and/or  email.

To keep me informed about news, events, activities and services at St John's (*note church e-bulletins will include unsubscribe options; otherwise contact the Parish Office by email / by letter at any time*)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Where you do not grant consent we will not be able to use your personal data; (so for example we may not be able to let you know about forthcoming services and events); except in certain limited situations, such as where required to do so by law or to protect members of the public from serious harm. You can find out more about how we use your data from our "Privacy Notice" which is available at <http://stjohnsharpenden.org.uk/information/privacy/> or from the Parish Office.

You can withdraw or change your consent at any time by contacting the Parish Office at St John's Church, St John's Road, Harpenden, AL5 1DJ or [parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk](mailto:parish.office@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk). Please note that all processing of your personal data will cease once you have withdrawn consent, other than where this is required by law, but this will not affect any personal data that has already been processed prior to this point.

*St John's PCC is a Registered Charity, No 1131603*